This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Cytidine deaminase (CDA)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting CDA with Abraxane nab-paclitaxel could help improve the efficacy of gemcitabine by reducing its breakdown in tumor cells. In a mouse model of pancreatic cancer, gemcitabine plus Abraxane decreased Cda protein stability and increased intratumoral gemcitabine concentrations compared with gemcitabine alone. The combination also slowed tumor growth, lowered metastasis and increased survival compared with gemcitabine alone. Next steps could include assessing whether the mechanism occurs in humans in an ongoing Phase III trial of Abraxane plus gemcitabine in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer. Celgene Corp. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market Abraxane to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.306 Published online March 22, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Frese, K.K. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Feb. 28, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-11-0242 Contact: David A. Tuveson, Cancer Research UK, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: david.tuveson@cancer.org.uk</p>